

DEFINITIONS OF GEOGRAPHY AND ITS APPLICABILITY

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In Bosnia and Herzegovina's scientific literature theoretical discussions and articles on geography definition, object of study and its position in our country are few, and mainly recognizing the fact that the position of geography is unsatisfactory, but specific efforts in solving this problem are almost nonexistent. Geography definitions in foreign and domestic scientific literature recently published titles are mostly incomplete, as will be shown on specific examples. By analyzing domestic and international theoretical works, it is obvious that defining of geography is an imperative, primarily due to the object and subject of its study, which are fundamental in positioning geography within the scientific system, and not only as educational subject. Geography as a science has its fundamental scientific framework, which is used in various forms and its significance has constructive and applicative importance.

Key words: *geography, definition, science, studying, applicability, applied geography*

INTRODUCTION

„...mere names of places...are not geography...know by heart a whole gazetteer full of them would not, in itself, constitute anyone a geographer. Geography has higher aims than this: it seeks to classify phenomena (alike of the natural and of the political world, in so far as it treats of the latter), to compare, to generalize, to ascend from effects to causes, and, in doing so, to trace out the laws of nature and to mark their influences upon man. This is 'a description of the world'—that is Geography. In a word Geography is a Science—a thing not of mere names but of argument and reason, of cause and effect“

William Hughes, 1863.

The word geography in today's society elicits different reactions and often contradictory thinking. It is unrealistic to assume that everyone understands geography as will most of the geographic profession and science members. It appears that its misunderstanding arises from ambiguities or general definitional perceptions, which sometimes significantly deviates from the spirit and object of geographical definition as science. Deviation is primarily due to non-geographical approach to the study of space in the educational-methodical and research and scientific context, then because of the influence of all kinds of media, with special emphasis on Internet sources and encyclopedias and popular scientific magazines, unused and neglect possibilities for developing different geographic skills and insufficient appearance of geographers in public. The above reflections on disadvantaged geography position in Bosnia and Herzegovina, further complicates and stresses often imprecise subject identification of geography in the educational system.

The purpose of each scientific discipline is expressed by the definition which must include the concept, scope and methodology of science. The problem of defining geography as scientific disciplines is evident primarily due to the concept of the profession, which

changes over time, the relationship between man and the natural base that has always been interesting for geographers, and overcoming the dichotomy arising from the above relations (geography is natural and social sciences). The development of modern geography is characterized by dualism - on one hand strengthen the physical geographical, and on the other social geographical studies.

Geography is the scientific discipline with a long tradition, but short history. Although as a modern scientific discipline established in the second half of the 19th century, the beginnings of its development reach far into the past (M. Vresk, 1997), in which she, as an independent science, is older than many others. In addition some sciences have developed on the objects of geographical study. Objects and subjects of geographic reality differentiated geography on scientific geographic areas and component geographical sciences which present system of geographical sciences, and thus geography is also complex and at the same time synthetic science.

SOME GEOGRAPHY DEFINITIONS IN FUNCTION OF GEOGRAPHIC APPLICATION

In order to understand the fundamental importance of geography and its dualistic role from the physical to social geographical understanding of the objective geographical reality it is necessary to keep on the analysis of chosen definitions. On one side are encyclopedic definitions, although long imposed they have their recent meaning from which we learn the object and the subject of geographical study. Encyclopedic definitions contain a dualistic approach; natural and social, as well as the interactions that arise from these relationships. Such an example is the definition contained in the Russian geographical encyclopedia (1966), according to which geography is the system of natural geographic and social geographic science, that studies the functioning and development of the geographical area of interacting spatial distribution of some of its parts.

In addition to fundamental and interactive explanations of object and subject of geographical study there are encyclopedic definitions, containing horologic component, for example. *Vojna enciklopedija* (Military Encyclopedia) (1972), in which geography is the study of the areas of Earth's surface. Next level of encyclopedic definition of geography refers to geosystem approach in the sense that the "geography is a science that explores and studies primarily surface of the Earth, that is lithosphere or hard (rocky) parts of the Earth's crust, the atmosphere, distribution of water, flora and fauna ", which provide benefits for settlements..." *Opća enciklopedija* (Universal Encyclopedia, 1978).

System approach to geography found in some resolutions of Congress by which geography is "system of natural geographical and social geographical sciences, which studies the natural and production-territorial complexes on Earth and their components." (*Zbornik radova X Kongresa Jugoslavije*, 1976., *Proceedings of X Congress Jugoslavije*, 1976).

Development path of modern geography in the works of contemporaries of the time of A. Von Humboldt who based his research on causality and the laws of natural elements and K. Ritter (1779-1859), who although historian emphasizes the natural basis in geography and represented chorological and geo-ecological approach to the study of geographical, over V.de by Blaise (1845-1918) protagonists of the French modern geographic school, who his scientific geographical approach based on human geography, H. Makindera (1861-1947), in England, who his geographical approach based on geography as science, which deals with the mutual relationship of man and the physical environment, W.M. Devis (1850-1934), who

in geography introduces cycles of geographical evolution, of which the most morphologically, to learnings of M.V. Lomonosov (1711-1765), who considered geography predominantly natural science in which includes antropogeography. V. Dokučajev in the early 20th century understands the essence of the relationship between society and nature as a relation within a complex, taking into account all of these definitional geographical aspirations, defined geography as a completely independent science, which has a leading position in the system of science, with its specific, strictly defined tasks and methods, not interfering in the existing branches of natural and social sciences.

Evolution of geography defining from fundamental to applicative occurs at the beginning of the last century with the development of component geographical sciences, which in addition to the fundamental all have the general, special, regional and applicative component. From this understanding of the component development system of geographical sciences was created dualism system of physical and social geographical sciences. If we understand that the system is maximum unity then geography in its definitional domain has exclusive monotheistic approach.

Modern geographical aspirations and definitional starting points are based on the behaviorism, humanistic, structuralist and ecological starting point. This has led to modifying the methodological concept of geography. Credits for the structural concept of geography belong to P. Haggett (1972), which looks at the geography from spatial, environmental and regional perspective. A little later, during the 80s, developed the concept of complex geography belonging to Weichhart P. (1975), which includes: physical, ecological and human geography.

Thereafter, develops methodological pluralist system in geography, some of which have no scientific foundation, with the premise that geography is with what geographers deal or to the premises, that it is an area which every individual experiences for itself.

Modern treatment of geography contained in the book "What is Geography" underlines its importance in the world which, among other things, focuses on the study of urbanization and mobility, ie. place of permanent residence (Bonnett, 2009); to highlighting spatial holistic approach, which takes into account a range of factors (Gabler et al., 2007). This definition analysis reveals that the modern geography convergences, except for some specialized work of its component doctrine, and it is not based on a natural basis nor social superstructure, but the relationship that these two categories in mutual interaction form. Such modern trends in geography is close to (geo) ecology that ... "studies natural conditions of settlement, economic resources as a function of material production and interactions that arise from these relationships" (Spahic, 2011). The development of geographical science began to be based on chorologic postulates deduced the man and his environment, which includes the general geo-ecological approach. This concept in the development of modern geography ... "leaves the idiographic, and focuses on the nomothetic approach" (Spahic, 2005).

Modern geography has mastered scientific methodology that is deeply into the essence of reciprocity of natural geographical and social geographical phenomena and processes that are the object of study of geography, which enables it to solve the accumulated problems in the field of tourism and regional-spatial planning. In a broader sense, tourism is an interdisciplinary science, and as a sort of chorological phenomenon can be treated as part of geography, where tourism geography appears as a link between tourism and geography. Tourism Geography studies the evaluation and valorisation of the geographic environment for tourism purposes. This valorization belongs to program geographical surveys based on the component geographic sciences. In this, it should be noted that economic geography

studies the allocation of naturalgeographic and social geographic resources, which is the basis of their exploitation for commercial purposes. The application of quantitative methods with the use of information technology in data processing has influenced the increased use of geography in practice. According to this, the greatest significance applicative geography has in regional-spatial planning and (geo) ecological studies, with the aim of planning and environmental protection.

THE FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE OF APPLIED GEOGRAPHY

In the sphere of geographical sciences, great attention is paid to the development of applicative geography or as some call it practical, constructive, engaged and so on. Applied Geography develops the new elements, but also the traditional geography and relies on fundamental, spatial planning and environmental aspects. Applied Geography was in 1960. accepted in the area of scientific geography and institutionalized, and in 1950. at the IGU congress first operated sections of the Applied Geography. The aim and significance of Applied Geography is reflected in the application of geographical knowledge in solving various problems. Applied Geography is based on the study of the geographical environment, whose research results are used in various purposes, and above all, exploitation renewable and non-renewable natural resources, protecting the environment, spatial and regional planning, development of the sector of business and economic strategy of sustainable development.

Applied Geography deeply probe into the causes of the large number of economic, social and environmental problems, and created the basis for their resolution (Pacione, 2011). The relevance and value of applied geographic research is particularly evident in addressing the many problematic situations of modern society - ranging from extreme natural events (floods, droughts and earthquakes) through environmental concerns (deforestation, disease and desertification) to social issues (crime, poverty and unemployment).

Idea of geographic applications was given by AJ Herbertson (1899) at the Council of Geographical Society in Manchester, where he presented Applied Geography as "a special way of looking at the geography." According to him ... "businessman has an economic way of view, doctors climate and demographics, for missionaries and ethicists ethical". More recent attempts to define Applied Geography are also instructive and reflect the scientific point of view.

Applied Geography is often understood as the application of geographical knowledge and skills in solving social, economic and environmental problems. Applied geography is not a discipline within the geography, but represents an approach that can bring together scientists from all geographical sphere for the purpose of certain socially useful activities (Pacione, 2004). Applied geographers argue that the identification and application of relevant theories, concepts and techniques in geography and its disciplines is the positive force of Applied Geography.

Development of Applied Geography was accompanied by a discussion of the usefulness of theoretical and applied research. Critics such as Cooper (1966) and Kenzera (1989) warned about applied geographical research as a threat to the intellectual development of geographic disciplines. On the other hand, Applebaum (1966) pointed out that "geography as a discipline can be used in man's struggle for a better life. Geographers should "rise up and join the advocates of these ideas and perpetrators in this fight" (Applebaum, 1966). Similarly, Abler (1993) believes that "geographers are too preoccupied with what is

geography; too few of them deals with what they can do for the company paying them "(Abler, 1993).

According to Palm and Brazel (1992) "applied research in any discipline are best explained as research that is contrary to the fundamental or pure research. In geography, basic research aim to develop new theories and methods that will help in explaining the process through which the spatial organization of the physical or social environment evolves. In contrast, applied research use existing geographic theories or techniques in order to understand and resolve specific empirical problems. "

Frazier (1982) points out that "applied geography uses the principles and methods of " pure "theoretical geography; analyzes and evaluates the phenomena and processes in the real world. In this procedure, a geographer seeks to manipulate geographic environment and spatial reality.

Balance between pure theoretical knowledge and applied research within the discipline varies over the time in relation to the existing socio-political environment, which is why the fundamental science as a result of external pressures, stress their importance and application ability of solving problems (Pacione, 2011).

In the end should be noted that Applied Geography is not a scientific discipline, or a separate part of the general geography. Geography sets the geographical knowledge in measures for the resolution of specific problems, and affecting its component or complex issues. Therefore, each component geographical science from its system of natural geographical and social geographical sciences has its own applicative part. The application of geographic knowledge in solving a certain problem has a long tradition, and is linked to the natural geographical and social geographical knowledge in solving settlement, exploitation of natural resources, construction of roads etc. Her initial applicability was based on the enormous amount of information, in the early 70s of last century, when this period is accepted as the beginning of scientific areas in geography (Kuhn, 1962).

The introduction of Applied Geography in the field of geographical research, importantly came to the fore of the 80s of the previous century, when a large number of geographers got employed outside of educational institutions, working on tasks of spatial planning, environmental protection, information and documentation activities, and more recently tourism. Applied tendencies geography conceived on its pluralistic concept. He was in Bosnia and Herzegovina expressed in geographical education started in the 80s of the last century, and expanded and incorporated with the introduction of the Bologna process from academic year 2004/05, when the Department of Geography, Faculty of Science, University of Sarajevo introduced the concept of modern studies of Applied Geography by introducing new subject areas in the field of Tourism and Environmental Protection, and Regional and Spatial Planning in all three study cycles. This concept of university geographical education is focused on:

- identification and evaluation of natural and anthropogenic motives in regional and spatial development of tourism planning for special purposes;
- shaping and permitted adaptation of natural and anthropogenic area;
- spatial planning of the region organization;
- opening and the approximation of natural and anthropogenic environmental motives for tourism purposes;
- rational use of non-renewable natural resources in order to preserve renewable natural resources;
- protection and restoration of the environment and

- planning the development of productive activities (Spahic, 2011).

CONCLUSION

The aim of this paper is to present the fundamental meanings of different definitions of geography, as well as the empirical importance of Applied Geography. Paper presents examples of just some of the definitions of geographical science and the evolution of its conceptual determination throughout history. It was discussed about the connection between theoretical and applied research and applicability of geography. Problem of defining geography as a scientific discipline is evident primarily due to the concept of the profession, which changes over time, the relationship between man and the natural base that has always been interesting for geographers, and overcoming the dichotomy arising from the above relations (geography is natural and social science). Geography is a complex component of natural geographical and social geographical sciences, which study the natural conditions of settlements in geographic environment, and economic resources as a function of material production. Geography is an interdisciplinary science which through a unique system of natural geographical and social geographical sciences study, explains, plans and oversees the ongoing relationship in the geographic environment (elements and processes, and their causal relationship) resulting intertwining of natural elements (factors) and social factors (elements), in order to discover, explain and predict their legality in the process of transforming and their valorization in the commercial purposes in accordance with the principles of sustainable development. Thus defined, geography itself is extremely complex and extensive, and represents a special scientific research challenge. Detection and identification of commonly accepted geography, according to which only it can be by using their techniques and methods, access, examine, define and predict the set of legality and spatial organization of space allow geography undisputed status in science, and the development of study programs which can in terms of organization, be expanded with scientific interest. Applied geography or applicative approach that is based on the importance of social usefulness or geography and that focuses on the application of geographic knowledge and skills in order to address social, economic and (geo) ecological problems. Geographic range of applied research program illustrates only the contribution that geography has currently in solving social, economic and (geo) environmental problems, but also stresses the growing potential of geographical approach in solving the problems that are now facing humanity.

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